

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 13, as follows:

Packet-based data communication systems, such as Ethernet systems, commonly employ address data packets (otherwise called frames) which include source and destination media access control addresses as well as, usually, other type, control and address data, such as network address or IP address data. Data of this character normally precedes the payload or message data of a packet. The MAC address data in such a packet defines, in media access control or 'layer 2' terms, the device from which a packet has come and to which a packet should be sent. There are various forms of packet including 'multicast' packets, which have an address specifying a group of destination devices, and 'broadcast' packets, which should be sent to all possible destinations. Excessive broadcasting of packets is limited by the segmentation of a network into, for example, virtual local area networks, and it is common for packets to contain an identification of the virtual local area network (VLAN) on which they originate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 4, as follows:

Broadly, a forwarding database may be compiled by reading the source MAC addresses of incoming data packets and, if such source address is not in the database the entry of that source address can be made together with ~~irrelevant~~relevant forwarding data, for example the port on which that packet was received. Then, when a packet is received

having a destination address which matches an entry in the table, the packet can be sent to that destination address defined by the forwarding data in the data entry. It is also known to add entries in such a database by means of 'management' frames, particularly when a network is initially set up.

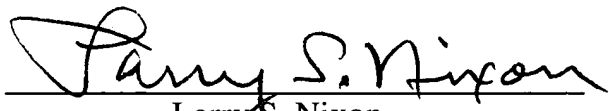
Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11, as follows:

Examples are:

FURLONG et al.
Appl. No. 09/622,159
April 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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